



VINCENT C. GRAY
MAYOR

August 10, 2012

The Honorable Marion Barry
Councilmember, Ward 8
The John A. Wilson Building
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Suite 102
Washington, DC 20004

Dear Councilmember Barry:

I am writing to express concerns about the proposed disapproval resolution which you filed in the Council on July 20, 2012 on the District's proposed contract to complete historic building stabilization on the St. Elizabeths East Campus (CA 19-392, a contract with Parkinson/Grunley Community Builders Joint Venture, in the amount of \$4,500,000, for Design-Build Stabilization Service for the St. Elizabeths East Campus), which otherwise would have been deemed approved by the Council on July 24, 2012.

As you know, this is the first construction that the District of Columbia is undertaking on the east campus as part of the St. Elizabeths Redevelopment Initiative – a project which we both believe will serve as a catalyst for revitalizing a long neglected community. However, your proposed disapproval resolution has led to the halting of all work which began following an executed letter contract, already causing several weeks of delay in the construction schedule.

It is my understanding that despite the fact that project staff from the office of the Deputy Mayor for Planning and Economic Development ("DMPED") has provided full and timely responses to your questions about this contract, your proposed disapproval resolution still has not been withdrawn. Your action has significant negative implications on the project schedule, undermining the pursuit of our mutually shared goals for the St. Elizabeths project – most importantly the goals that serve the residents of Ward 8, including the creation of jobs.

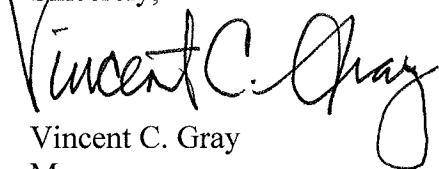
Because of the very aggressive schedule that DMPED has been directed to pursue, it is critical that all work be very well coordinated. Including this design-build stabilization contract, there are at least four critical construction projects that must be undertaken at St. Elizabeths beginning this year. It was our intention to have the stabilization work completed prior to the beginning of the next project – construction of the Gateway Pavilion, a project that will provide long-needed food and retail amenities to the local community as well as business and employment

opportunities to Ward 8 residents. Your proposed disapproval resolution delays the current contract and likely will jeopardize the start of construction on the Pavilion.

Even if construction on the Pavilion were able to begin on time, the simultaneous stabilization and construction projects, as opposed to staging the timing of each, would create a level of construction traffic that affects quality of life issues for Congress Heights residents. This disruption in the current construction schedule also has a domino effect on all work to follow, including both infrastructure construction – which allows for approximately 60% of the campus to support the vision contained in the St. Elizabeths Master Plan – and construction of the first stage of building projects. It goes without saying that delays and disruptions in the currently scheduled construction schedule also may increase the financial costs of the overall project.

St. Elizabeths East is a critically important project which will bring jobs, economic development opportunities and retail amenities that the Ward 8 community desperately needs and deserves. A project of this importance and magnitude must move forward in order to attract the greatest talent and deliver on its ambitious promise of creating positive outcomes for this community and the District as a whole. By delaying this first major project, a wrong signal has been sent to potential future business and development partners that the District would like to attract to St. Elizabeths. Instead, we should be working together and expeditiously to create a positive business climate for investment in Ward 8, and ensure that construction and economic development can move forward with certainty and without unnecessary delays.

Sincerely,



Vincent C. Gray
Mayor

cc: Members of the Council of the District of Columbia
Allen Lew, City Administrator
Victor Hoskins, Deputy Mayor for Planning and Economic Development
Christopher Murphy, Chief of Staff
Janene Jackson, Director, Office of Policy and Legislative Affairs
Ward 8 ANCs
Ward 8 Business Associations